

In re Patent Application of:
COOPER
Serial No: 10/775,962
Filing Date: February 10, 2004

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A communications system comprising:

a plurality of communications devices connected together in a network and having a plurality of user accounts associated therewith, at least one of said communications devices processing requests using a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) client application associated therewith;

an application server for accessing the user accounts via said HTTP client application; and

an HTTP server for interfacing said HTTP client application with said application server;

said HTTP server and said HTTP client application formatting requests to be communicated therebetween in an HTTP format via the Internet, and each providing additional state information with the HTTP formatted requests recognizable by the other for authenticating the application server and said HTTP client application to one another;

said HTTP client application accepting work jobs from said application server by sending a GET request to a first universal resource locator (URL) associated with said HTTP server to establish a semi-permanent connection between said HTTP client application and said HTTP server, and responding to the work jobs from said application server by sending a POST request with results for the work jobs to a second URL different from the first URL and also associated with said HTTP server.

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2. (Original) The communications system of Claim 1 wherein the additional state information comprises a global unique identifier (GUID) associated with said HTTP client application.

3. (Original) The communications system of Claim 1 wherein the user accounts comprise email accounts.

4. (Original) The communications system of Claim 1 wherein said HTTP client application and said HTTP server further provide sequencing information with the HTTP formatted requests.

5. (Original) The communications system of Claim 1 wherein said HTTP client application and said HTTP server format the additional state information as HTTP headers for respective HTTP formatted requests.

6. (Original) The communications system of Claim 1 wherein said at least one communications device is within a protected computing environment.

7. (Currently amended) A communications system comprising:

a plurality of communications devices connected together in a network and having a plurality of user accounts associated therewith, at least one of said communications devices

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processing requests using a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) client application associated therewith;

an application server for accessing the user accounts via said HTTP client application; and

an HTTP server for interfacing said HTTP client application with said application server;

said HTTP server and said HTTP client application formatting requests to be communicated therebetween in an HTTP format via the Internet, and each providing a global unique identifier (GUID) associated with said HTTP client application with the HTTP formatted requests for authenticating the application server and said HTTP client application to one another;

said HTTP client application accepting work jobs from said application server by sending a GET request to a first universal resource locator (URL) associated with said HTTP server to establish a semi-permanent connection between said HTTP client application and said HTTP server, and responding to the work jobs from said application server by sending a POST request with results for the work jobs to a second URL different from the first URL and also associated with said HTTP server, and said HTTP client application and said HTTP server further providing sequencing information with the HTTP formatted requests.

8. (Original) The communications system of Claim 7 wherein the user accounts comprise email accounts.

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9. (Original) The communications system of Claim 7 wherein said HTTP client application and said HTTP server format the additional state information as HTTP headers for respective HTTP formatted requests.

10. (Original) The communications system of Claim 7 wherein said at least one communications device is within a protected computing environment.

11. (Currently amended) A method for accessing a plurality of user accounts associated with a plurality of communications device using an application server, the communications devices being connected together in a network, and at least one of the communications devices processing requests using a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) client application associated therewith, the method comprising:

interfacing the application server with the HTTP client application using an HTTP server, the HTTP server and the HTTP client application formatting requests to be communicated therebetween in an HTTP format via the Internet, and each providing additional state information with the HTTP formatted requests recognizable by the other for authenticating the application server and the HTTP client application to one another; and

using the HTTP client application to accept work requests from the application server by sending a GET request to a first universal resource locator (URL) associated with the HTTP

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server to establish a semi-permanent connection between the HTTP client application and the HTTP server, and to respond to the work jobs from the application server by sending a POST request with results for the work jobs to a second URL different from the first URL and also associated with the HTTP server.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 11 wherein the additional state information comprises a global unique identifier (GUID) associated with the HTTP client application.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 11 wherein the user accounts comprise email accounts.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 11 wherein the HTTP client application and the HTTP server further provide sequencing information with the HTTP formatted requests.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 11 wherein the HTTP client application and the HTTP server format the additional state information as HTTP headers for respective HTTP formatted requests.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 11 wherein the at least one communications device is within a protected computing environment.